

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

OCTOBER 13, 2015

Proclaim Care Harbor Week 2015

According to the 2014 California Health Interview Survey, in 2014 there were still over 1.3 million Los Angeles County (County) residents who were uninsured. That is 29% of California's uninsured population. Approximately 500,000 are not eligible for any public health coverage due to citizenship status, and while the County serves approximately 135,000 of those who are ineligible through the My Health LA program, the remainder are without access to care.

In the past six years, the County has been the site of six of the largest metropolitan free clinics ever conducted. The first was held at the Forum in Inglewood, the second at the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena and the third, produced in collaboration with former California First Lady Maria Shriver, was held at the Pyramid in Long Beach. The last four free clinics held from 2011 through 2014 returned to the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena. Each event has built upon the successes of the previous events and provided a range of health and wellness resources never before available under one roof at one time. Together, these six events treated 28,915 patients with 83,408 medical, dental and vision services; free care valued at more than \$15 million.

This year, Care Harbor - Los Angeles (LA) will host another innovative clinic at the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena from October 15th through October 18th and will

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serve an estimated 4,000 patients over the four days. Wristbands were distributed on October 11th at Ted Watkins Park and October 12th at the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena as place-holders for appointments to the clinic. In addition to free medical, dental and vision care, patients will be provided with immunizations and screenings, mental health counseling, extensive educational presentations and exhibits to promote wellness, self-care and healthy lifestyles, covering topics from smoking cessation to disaster preparedness. Local clinics and providers will have representatives on site to make appointments for those needing follow-up care.

Care Harbor - LA continues to receive an unprecedented level of support from the local health care community: medical and dental schools, professional societies, hospitals, clinics, provider organizations, suppliers, and thousands of volunteers. The free clinic is also working closely with County departments including the Departments of Health Services, Mental Health, Public Health and Public Social Services. In addition, Care Harbor - LA will once again offer enrollment opportunities to eligible patients in qualifying health coverage programs. Those who will not qualify through Covered California will be provided with an opportunity to link with free or low-cost community clinics for their primary healthcare needs.

The local organizers and health care professionals who produced these clinics have formed a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity to bring quality care to the uninsured, underinsured and underserved of the County. Known as Care Harbor (originally called CareNow), the nonprofit was founded with a dual goal: to provide comprehensive free care at large community clinics, and to provide continuing care for patients needing follow-up by arranging medical homes for patients among the community's existing health care resources. The new name reflects an expanded mission, making Care Harbor a destination and a portal, a haven of health and hope, and a gateway to sustainable care. Care Harbor - LA clinics will have an enduring impact on the health of

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the community. This free clinic creates a lasting change in the lives of thousands at a time of great need for the most vulnerable people.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

- 1) Proclaim October 15th through October 18th, 2015 as “Care Harbor Week” in Los Angeles County (County) and encourage the residents of the County who are uninsured or underinsured and in need of medical, dental or vision care to take part in this event, offered at no cost to the participants;
- 2) Encourage County departments to participate in the event to the extent that doing so is consistent with their mission and budgetary constraints, to include allowing employees to work at the event on County time with the authorization of their immediate supervisor and administration; and
- 3) Allow County departments to utilize mobile County vehicles at the event as needed for treatment or educational purposes.

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